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Abstract:

A call for papers for International Pynchon Week 2013, to be held at Durham University, UK from the 5-8 August 2013.

International Pynchon Week 2013: Call For Papers

Samuel Thomas

2013 marks 3 significant anniversaries for readers and scholars of Thomas Pynchon: 50 years since the publication of his first novel, *V.*, 40 since his most acclaimed work, *Gravity's Rainbow*, and 250 years since the arrival of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon on American shores (the start of the surveying project that would divide a nation and, of course, the subject of Pynchon's metahistorical novel, *Mason & Dixon*). In light of this, International Pynchon Week 2013 will be held at Durham University in the UK from the 5th to the 8th of August. The location of the conference has a special resonance as Jeremiah Dixon was born and buried in County Durham.

Given the timing and setting of IPW 2013, we would particularly welcome papers that address the legacies of *V.* and *Gravity's Rainbow* and / or Pynchon's engagement with the life of Jeremiah Dixon and the North East of England.

Other topics for consideration might include, but are no means limited to:

- Pynchon's literary heritage / Pynchon's influence and influences / Pynchon and canonicity
- Novel theoretical approaches
- Biographical criticism
- Trans-Atlantic / Trans-Pacific / Pan-American connections
- Pynchon and History
- Political implications of Pynchon's work
- Pynchon and borders / boundaries / frontiers / nationhood (esp. Englishness)
- Gender and sexuality in Pynchon
- Pynchon's publishing process
- Archival research and Pynchon's source materials
- Pynchon's music and songs
- The shape and/or phases of Pynchon's career and its evolving contexts
- The Pynchon scholarly community itself, including online developments (e.g. P-Wiki, PYNCHON-L)

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be emailed to samuel.thomas@durham.ac.uk by 20th December 2012. Speakers will be notified by the 1st February 2013. Selected proceedings will be published in a special issue of the new, open access journal *Orbit: Writing Around Pynchon*.

Conference website: <http://www.ipw2013.com/>

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